

line to metro Denver. But any of the plans would cost billions of dollars and create ecological woes.

If Colorado's population continues growing, our state someday will claim its share of Colorado River water. When it does, California and Nevada could rights demand that Colorado and other upper-basin states—Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico—follow the pact's strict limits, too.

The law of the river must be enforced, for everyone. And water conservation must become a way of life in the West.

Mr. ALLARD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY BUCKEYES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today as an alumnus of Ohio State University and a Senator filled with pride for our 2002 national champions, the Ohio State Buckeyes.

I congratulate my home team and their outstanding coach, Jim Tressel, on a spectacular win and the best season ever in the history of Ohio State University—14 wins and no losses. Throughout the season, the Buckeyes showed a remarkable spirit of determination, cooperation, and the best teamwork that I have seen in a football team, frankly, during my lifetime.

The Buckeyes have good people and a great leader who inspired his team to do their best—as athletes and young men with character, determination, pride, and loyalty to each other and to their alumni.

On the night of the game, some of the sports pundits said that the other team had more talent than the Ohio State Buckeyes. But throughout this season, we utilized our talent more fully than any other opponent.

The Buckeyes have that special ingredient—sticking together and working together—a true symbiotic relationship. They understood that the more they cooperated on behalf of the team as a whole the better off all of them would be. That is the spirit that shone through during the whole season—unselfish determination and genuine teamwork. That is what it was about.

Their lesson is a good one for us in the Senate. It is the same kind of spirit that we are going to need on the floor of the Senate and in our country if we expect to win the war on terrorism and to become national champions for our hard-working citizens who put their trust in us. We would all do well to emulate the 2002 Ohio State Buckeyes. I congratulate our 2002 national champions and again underscore that if we

can maintain the spirit they have of working together, teamwork, and bipartisanship, we are going to have an outstanding season here in the 108th Congress.

I suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

Mr. CRAPO. The Senate is in morning business for another 23½ minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOMESTEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, there has been a great deal of discussion in recent days about the American economy. The President was in Chicago the middle of this week and proposed a new plan talking about tax cuts in order to stimulate the economy. Others in the Democratic Caucus in the Senate and the House have talked about various plans for tax cuts to stimulate the economy. While all this discussion about the economy is important, I wanted to mention something else that is happening in the American economy that gets precious little attention.

There is an economic blight that is occurring in our country that is out of sight and therefore it is not very well understood by most Americans. I want to talk about it for a moment.

In the last Congress, with Senator Chuck Hagel from Nebraska, I introduced legislation called the New Homestead Economic Opportunity Act. I visited briefly yesterday with Senator HAGEL and we are going to be talking about reintroducing that legislation very soon in this Congress. I wanted to make a couple of comments about it and alert colleagues that this legislation is something we are going to work very hard to try and get approved by this Senate.

There is a problem in this country with the economy. This is not a problem about the American economy in its entirety. It is a problem about the economy in the heartland of our country. This map shows the rural counties of high out-migration in the country, that is, counties in which people are moving out, not in; counties that are losing population.

If we draw an egg shape from North Dakota down to Texas in the middle part of our country, we have the heartland of America being depopulated.

This is the heartland of America, which is North Dakota, South Dakota,

Nebraska, Kansas, right on down to Texas, including some States on both sides. This is the part of the country that we populated a century and a half ago with something called the Homestead Act. My great-grandmother, named Caroline, with her six children—her husband having died, she was an immigrant widow from Norway—decided to move to the prairies of North Dakota. She pitched a tent, built a house, started a farm, and raised a family. She had a son, who had a daughter, who had me, and that is how I come from Hettinger County in North Dakota.

A century and a half ago, we populated the middle part of our country through something called the Homestead Act, saying to people: move there, build there, and create a family there. We will give you some free land. It is called the Homestead Act. So they did. In covered wagons they came to the middle of our country. Now a century and a half later, people are moving out in a relentless depopulation. In every one of these States—North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, Wyoming—people are moving out of the rural counties. The percentage of out-migration is shown on this chart. In North Dakota, about 90 percent of the counties are losing population. I grew up in a county in southwestern North Dakota. My home county is bigger than the State of Rhode Island. When I left there were 5,000 people who lived there. Now there are 2,700 living there. In the year 2020 the demographers say there will be 1,700 living in my home county, a county larger than the State of Rhode Island.

In this county, there is a town called New England, ND, a wonderful little community. Donna Dorman is the minister at the Lutheran Church in New England. She said that as a minister she presides over four funerals for every wedding. Think of that: Four funerals she officiates at for every wedding. This is a Lutheran minister. What does that say about the towns, where the population is getting older, people are moving out, young couples that stay are not having children. It is the opposite of the movie "Four Weddings and a Funeral." Four funerals per wedding. That is a description of what is happening up and down the middle part of the country with this steady depopulation.

Then we have people in other parts of the country who are trying to recreate what we have in the middle: Great schools, good places to live, safe neighborhoods, good places to raise children. They are trying to recreate that in other population centers of the country.

We have people leaving the middle of America, in the heartland. The question is, What do we do about this? Can we do anything? William Jennings Bryant said destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; destiny is a thing to be achieved.